

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Claims 6 to 11 and 27 to 41 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 27, 32 and 37 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 27, 32 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for as allegedly having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended to the claims to correct the alleged insufficiency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 6 to 9, 11, 27 to 30, 32 to 35 and 37 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,498 (Shima). Claims 10, 31, 36 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,923 (Williams).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a print control apparatus working as a host computer for a printing apparatus. The print control apparatus generates print data to be interpreted by the printing apparatus to print. The print control apparatus comprises a generation unit that generates the print data with the number of copies which is changed into 1 for a test print by the spool file manager when the print instruction is the test print instruction, then reads the data saved by the spooler and repeats a generation of the print data after outputting the print data for the test print. The generation unit may generate the print data with a number of copies having a value obtained by subtracting the number of copies output in a test print process from the designated number of copies. Thus, a printing apparatus in accordance with the present invention can perform a test print and a print of the remaining copies even if the printing apparatus does not comprise a memory sufficient to store an entire print data of one copy.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 6 is directed to a print control apparatus working as a host computer of a printing apparatus, which generates print data to be interpreted by the printing apparatus to print. The apparatus includes: a spooler that saves data to be printed, which is issued from an application, together with a designated number of copies; a spool file manager that checks if a print instruction is a test print instruction, that changes the number of copies to 1 when the print instruction is the test print instruction, and that outputs the data saved in the spooler to the printing apparatus together with the number of copies to be printed in response to the print instruction for printing at the print apparatus; and a generation unit that reads the saved data with the number of copies outputted by said spool file manager to generate the print data. The generation unit generates the print data with the number of copies which is changed into 1 for a test print by the spool file manager when the print instruction is the test print instruction, then reads the data saved by the spooler and repeats a generation of the print data after outputting the print data for the test print.

In contrast, Shima discloses a printer that analyzes print information received from a host computer to recognize a print specification (e.g., a print of multiple copies, a print in the reverse order and a test print) of the print information and determines a print execution method based upon the print specification. Furthermore, Shima discloses that if the printing apparatus does not comprise a memory sufficient to store an entire print data of one copy, the printing apparatus cannot perform a print of the remaining copies after the test print. Because the print apparatus deletes intermediate print information corresponding to the printed page when the printing apparatus does not comprise a memory sufficient to store an entire print data of one copy (See Shima, column11, lines 6 to 24). Thus, the printing apparatus disclosed by Shima cannot perform a test print and a print of the remaining copies after the test print if the printing apparatus

does not comprise a memory sufficient to store an entire print data of one copy because Shima fails to disclose generating print data for a test print and then reads data saved in the spooler to generate print data after outputting the print data for the test print.

Moreover, Williams discloses a printing apparatus that prints a proof copy using imaged plates. (See Williams, column 8, lines 61 to 65). The printing apparatus prints an image using new printing plates made using corrected image data. (See Williams, column 9, lines 1 to 2). However, Williams fails to disclose the spooler and the generating means of the present invention.

Neither Shima nor Williams are concerned with print control apparatuses working as host computers for a printing apparatus or their associated methods. Furthermore, neither Shima nor Williams, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest the feature of a spooler saving data from an application and a generating the print data with the number of copies which is changed into 1 for a test print by the spool file manager when the print instruction is the test print instruction, then reads the data saved by the spooler and repeats a generation of the print data after outputting the print data for the test.

In light of the deficiencies of Shima and Williams as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.


Independent Claims 27, 32 and 37 are directed to an apparatus, method and computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, respectively, corresponding to Claim 6 as amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 27, 32 and 37 are now also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. However, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 103448v1